

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 144564
ORIGIN NEA-11

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DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:JMALOTT:CF
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-----104059 072350Z /70
P 072207Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (DESAI, MORARJI)

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S VISIT TO U.S.

REF: NEW DELHI 8733

1. SUBJECT MANGOES CANNOT BE IMPORTED INTO U.S., AS MANGOES FROM INDIA HAVE BEEN ON RESTRICTED LIST AT LEAST SINCE 1912, WHEN QUARANTINE ACT WAS PASSED. INDIAN MANGOES ARE INFESTED IN THEIR SEEDS BY MANGO WEEVILS, WHICH CANNOT BE FUMIGATED OR CONTROLLED AT PORT OF ENTRY. NO EXCEPTIONS TO LAW CAN BE MADE FOR DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL OR FOREIGN LEADERS. VIENNA AND GENEVA CONVENTIONS ON DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES, ETC., DO NOT REPEAT NOT ALLOW DIPLOMATS TO IMPORT ITEMS WHICH OTHERWISE ARE RESTRICTED BY THE LAWS OF THE LOCAL COUNTRY FOR REASONS SUCH AS HEALTH OR SAFETY. PROTOCOL HAS NEVER ASKED USDA TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR ANY FOREIGN LEADER, AND IN THE PAST, FRUITS IMPORTED INTO THE

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U.S. BY OTHER FOREIGN LEADERS, MOST RECENTLY THE PRESIDENT OF ZAMBIA, HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED ON ENTRY.

2. GIVEN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, BOTH AIR INDIA AND THE INDIAN EMBASSY HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT UNLESS SUBJECT MANGOES ARE OFF-LOADED IN LONDON OR ELSEWHERE, THEY WILL BE CONFISCATED UPON ARRIVAL IN U.S.

3. WE REGRET THAT WE HAD NO CHOICE IN THIS MATTER, AND
ONLY WISH THAT INDIAN EMBASSY HAD CHECKED INTO THIS BEFORE
SELECTION OF GIFT AND ANNOUNCEMENT TO PRESS WERE MADE. VANCE

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